

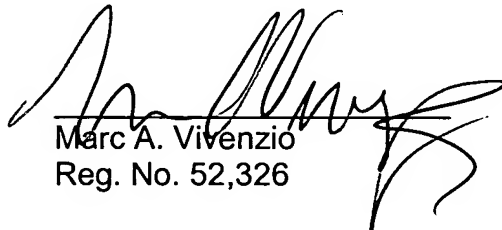
**REMARKS**

By this Preliminary Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification to include headings for each section pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.77(c), a cross-reference to related international application PCT/AT02/00058 pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(2)(i) and an abstract pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.72(b). Additionally, claims 1-25 have been amended in an effort to better conform said claims, which were originally written in a European format, to customary U.S. practice. In filing this amendment, the Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to application.

**FEE STATEMENT**

A fee of \$860.00 is submitted herewith. It is believed that no additional fees are due at the present time. However, in the event of any fee deficiency or overpayment, authorization is hereby granted to charge such deficiency or credit such overpayment to deposit account No. 12-2147.

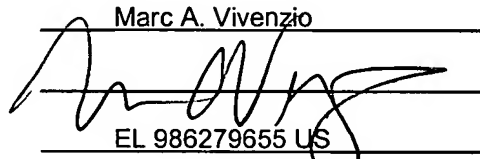
Respectfully Submitted,  
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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10)**

I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment along with any attachments referred to therein, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on October 6, 2003.

Marc A. Vivenzio  
  
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